United Nations A/C.2/66/SR.13

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session
Official Records

Distr. General
1 February 2012

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 13th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 17 October 2011, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Yohanna (Vice-Chair) ..... (Nigeria)

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In the absence of Mr. Momen (Bangladesh), Mr. Yohanna (Nigeria), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 23: Eradication of poverty and other development issues

(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (A/66/221)

(b) Women in development (A/66/219)

(c) Human resources development (A/66/206)

1. **Ms. Bas** (Director, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)" (A/66/221), noted that despite some progress, poverty remained high and persistent in many regions. Inequitable economic growth, slow employment creation, increasing global food prices, weak agricultural development, climate change and conflict all posed major challenges to poverty reduction.

2. The report underscored the importance of achieving inclusive and sustained growth and encouraged the implementation of macroeconomic policies that promoted the creation of productive employment. Agricultural and rural development were also vital to reducing poverty, as were measures such as providing access to basic health care and giving basic cash transfers to families with children.

3. During the Second Decade, policy coherence and coordination were being improved in support of the Global Jobs Pact and the Social Protection Floor Initiative. However, in the absence of contributions to the World Solidarity Fund, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had been unable to set up a structure for the management or implementation of the Fund.

4. The report underscored the importance of a coordinated response to achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of reducing poverty and ensuring sustainable recovery. That would require enhancing policy coherence and promoting stronger inter-agency collaboration within the framework of the Second Decade.

5. **Ms. Puri** (Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Integrating a gender perspective into national development strategies" (A/66/219), said that the United Nations had strong evidence that gender-sensitive approaches, together with women's full participation in political and economic processes at all levels, translated into more sustainable solutions to the challenges facing the global community, such as those involving economic growth, food security, climate change and conflict resolution.

6. Effective systems of justice were a foundation for women's economic empowerment. Success in achieving Goal 3 of the MDGs (promoting gender equality and empowering women) played a critical part in determining the success of all the other MDGs. Despite some progress towards achieving Goal 3, much remained to be done. Closing the gender gap in agriculture could also generate significant gains for that sector and for society as a whole. While the World Bank's 2012 report on gender equality and development pointed to gains that had been made in terms of women's rights, education, health and access to jobs, it also highlighted a number of vital measures for closing the gender gap, such as increasing women's access to economic opportunities. She encouraged all delegations to address gender issues when debating the various agenda items taken up by the Second Committee and to consider how women could benefit from their policy recommendations.

7. Gender-responsive budgeting could help Governments decide whether and how policies needed to be adjusted and where resources needed to be allocated for the achievement of gender equality. The Secretary-General's report pointed to evidence that such budgeting had helped to: address the gaps between Government commitments to achieve gender-equality goals and the corresponding allocation of resources; build the planning and budgeting capacities of Government agencies, especially in the context of budget reform; promote accountability towards women concerning the use of public resources; and increase the transparency of policy processes through the participation of civil society.

8. The analysis by UN-Women of the actions taken by Member States to integrate gender perspectives into their development strategies and the support provided

to them for that purpose by the United Nations system and donor countries showed that States had taken a wide range of measures to ensure that gender-equality issues were addressed in national strategies and programmes, including the mainstreaming of gender issues in all stages of policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

9. UN-Women had also reviewed measures taken by donors and bilateral development partners to integrate a gender perspective into all their development cooperation work, including official development assistance (ODA). That was especially important in light of the significant changes in the architecture of aid programmes since the adoption of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in 2005 and the Accra Agenda for Action in 2008. The Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to be held in Busan in November 2011, would provide an opportunity for Member States, including the least developed countries, to integrate gender-responsive budgeting into their aid management system and capacity-building initiatives. She welcomed the International Development Association's recent allocation for gender equality; if properly used, it could well prove transformative in recipient countries.

10. The Secretary-General's report put forward recommendations to strengthen gender mainstreaming efforts in national development strategies, sectoral plans and development-cooperation work carried out by United Nations entities. It also recommended steps to enhance participation and accountability and to improve the allocation and tracking of resources. In addition, more work was needed to improve measures and tools for gender mainstreaming, including the effective application of gender-responsive budgeting, systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data and the development of gender-sensitive indicators for monitoring and reporting on progress and impacts.

11. One year after its establishment, UN-Women was seriously under-resourced, which hampered its ability to deliver on the expectations of stakeholders. While its donor base had expanded to include 106 countries, and the voluntary contributions received from Member States were sincerely appreciated, it was still short of targets. It therefore looked forward to receiving increased contributions, especially during its ongoing start-up period.

12. **Mr. Pierre** (Officer-in-Charge, Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on human resources development (A/66/206), said that regrettably, many countries continued to face challenges in developing adequate human resources, and those challenges had been exacerbated by slow and uneven economic recovery, growing unemployment and high and volatile food and energy prices. To respond to unemployment, many countries had increased labour market flexibility through deregulation; however, that had often resulted in lower wages and adversely affected working conditions.

13. The international community should provide sustained assistance to developing countries that would allow them to strengthen their human resources in more targeted and cost-effective ways while improving their capacity to achieve the MDGs. The forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development would provide an opportunity for Member States to devise strategies to develop their resources and provide training in the skills required to create a green economy.

14. The Secretary-General's report provided an overview of the main characteristics of the global financial and economic crisis and its interrelationship with human resources development. It highlighted the fact that many Governments were making austerity-induced cuts to expenditures in education, health and human resources development. Governments would need to consider whether, under the current circumstances, they should pursue counter-cyclical measures to maintain investments in training, education and health in order to boost job-rich recovery rather than reduce budget deficits. They would also need to determine how to reduce barriers to employment and decent work, especially those encountered by disadvantaged young adults. In addition, there was a need for innovative measures to maximize the benefits of migration while minimizing its negative effects.

15. **Mr. Mero** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he found it surprising that the mobilization of resources appeared to be a challenge to UN-Women, in view of all the efforts that had gone into establishing it. He asked for an explanation.

16. **Ms. Puri** (Assistant Secretary-General, UN-Women) said that the Entity's regular budget allocation accounted for less than 2 per cent of its financing, the bulk of which came from voluntary contributions. The target originally set by the Secretary-General for voluntary funds for the first three years of its existence had been scaled down but was still far from being achieved. Political commitment still needed to be fully reflected in financial investment. Among developed countries, the major donors were Australia, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom; developing country donors included Gabon, India, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea and the United Arab Emirates, which had recently made a large contribution.

17. **The Chair** invited the Committee to engage in a general discussion on the item.

18. **Mr. Suárez Salvia** (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that eradicating poverty was the greatest challenge currently facing the world and a prerequisite for sustainable development in developing countries. Indeed, the continuing need to tackle its root causes had been recognized through the proclamation of the Second Decade for the Eradication of Poverty 2008-2017, in view of the slow and uneven progress made during the First Decade, particularly in the most vulnerable countries. However, in the context of the ongoing economic and financial crisis, the prospects of achieving poverty reduction targets and other development goals by 2015 seemed extremely bleak.

19. Measures must be taken to reverse the decline in international resource flows and create jobs, promote productive capacities and strengthen agricultural development. ODA remained crucial in that regard, but debt relief, trade expansion and the removal of trade barriers and agricultural subsidies would also help developing countries, by giving them market access in developed countries for their agricultural and manufactured goods and services. Other urgent matters in that context were the threat of the increasing technological marginalization of the South and the unmet demand among the poor for financial services; they should be addressed respectively through transfers of technology to the developing world and the expansion of microcredit and microfinance institutions. The Group of 77 and China therefore called on the United Nations system and other stakeholders to maximize the role of microfinance instruments, especially for the empowerment of women and rural populations and for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises. The issue of women in development needed to be addressed within the framework of the General Assembly's work on economic and financial matters: the promotion of productive employment and decent work for all was vital for poverty reduction. Poverty was the most pervasive violation of human rights and the right to development and must be addressed through national policies supported by an enabling external environment, with the continuing cooperation of the international community.

20. **Mr. Bairagi** (Nepal), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), said that the eradication of poverty was the greatest development challenge facing humanity. The substantial progress that the international community must make to meet that challenge required strong political will and sufficient support for those most in need. Multiple crises and the impacts of climate change had reversed many of the development gains of the LDCs; they could not achieve equitable economic growth and sustainable development without the removal of constraints and the building of their productive capacity and resilience to shocks. Despite their efforts, present trends made it unlikely that they would be able to reduce the grinding poverty of their people or achieve the internationally agreed development goals by 2015. Agricultural and rural development, infrastructure building, enhanced food and nutritional security, job creation and economic diversification could all make a decisive contribution to those efforts and required the support of the international community.

21. Other essential factors for inclusive and equitable growth were giving poor and marginalized people access to productive resources and essential health and education services and providing them with social protection. The challenge was immense, however, given that the resources required to ensure a social protection floor for LDCs exceeded the total amount of ODA they received. One further source of difficulty for those countries lay in their weak human resource development, exacerbated by the global economic downturn with its many adverse effects on education and health care and an alarming rise in rates of unemployment and underemployment. Nevertheless, poverty eradication still remained within reach; the

countries concerned were committed to doing their part, but they needed stronger support from the international community, in particular through the World Solidarity Fund.

22. **Mr. Khan** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that latest figures concerning the number of people without access to nutritious food, living below the poverty line or simply unemployed gave cause for grave concern. Global food price volatility and extreme weather patterns had made the situation worse by creating a new food crisis, with dire effects on food security and nutrition among the poorest people, especially in the Horn of Africa.

23. Achievement of the MDGs therefore depended on the continued efforts of the United Nations system, in conjunction with the public and private sector; but regional integration would also make a valuable contribution to that end. The ASEAN countries called for support for the development of agricultural productivity through greater and better-targeted investment. Their efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger were hampered by the volatility of food prices, which significantly undermined the objective of halving the number of undernourished people by 2015. The root causes of such volatility needed to be tackled through appropriate, coherent policy measures and mechanisms.

24. The keys to sustainable rural development were peace, political stability and economic stability supported by a vibrant development partnership. In that connection, his delegation called on developed countries to honour their ODA commitments to developing countries, particularly the least developed. It would also be useful if poor countries could be relieved of their debt burden, as that would free resources to fund essential development projects.

25. The ASEAN countries welcomed the call in the report on the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (A/66/221) for continued regional and international efforts to provide adequate employment opportunities for all workers. At the same time, the network of social security systems in the region needed to be strengthened; initiatives to that end were therefore being encouraged.

26. **Ms. Gunnarsdóttir** (Iceland), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, expressed support for developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, in their efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve the MDGs. There was a need to build their long-term resilience and capacity to withstand external shocks and crises, including the effects of conflict, climate change and natural hazards. At the same time, access to affordable, reliable sustainable energy services was critical to poverty reduction.

27. The Nordic countries considered gender equality and women's empowerment to be key policy planks for poverty eradication and development; they looked to UN-Women to push that agenda. Women accounted for a disproportionately large proportion of the world's poor and were often responsible for the livelihood of their families, especially in rural areas. They should be given greater opportunities to participate fully in the labour market, which would contribute significantly to economic growth, as well as in decision-making at the local and governmental level; that was simply a question of democracy.

28. **Mr. Ibrahim** (Sudan) said poverty eradication efforts had been hampered by the surge in agricultural prices, particularly those of basic foodstuffs, combined with climate change and the economic and financial crisis. Some 925 million people had suffered hunger in 2010, and that number could rise. As his delegation had noted at the previous session (A/C.2/65/SR.16, para. 74-75), to achieve sustainable development in Africa, new partnership mechanisms would be needed, and early warning mechanisms for food shortage would be useful. Achieving a green revolution in Africa would entail action to tackle drought and desertification, adapt to climate change and achieve effective natural resource management. His Government's Green Mobilization Project was expected to boost agriculture, industry and transport should lead to investment in development and, in particular, water resources, across the region. To meet the serious challenges of drought, desertification and climate change, his Government had prepared a climate change national strategy the previous year.

29. His country's external debt now stood at $38 billion. Despite the reforms enacted by his Government in 1997, which had raised the growth rate to 7 per cent, the Sudan had not been able to benefit from any debt relief initiative. The international community should grant the Sudan access to debt relief, thereby facilitating the realization of the MDGs, and take initiatives to facilitate developing countries'

access to developed markets and to new agricultural technologies.

30. **Mr. Almeida** (Brazil) said that poverty eradication, together with the elimination of chronic hunger and malnutrition, should remain at the heart of national and international efforts to promote development. Effective policies to that end by developing countries needed international support; it was therefore a matter of concern that ODA delivery by developed countries remained substantially below the internationally agreed levels.

31. The goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015 remained achievable, despite renewed uncertainty in the world economy, provided that coherent policies were pursued with the necessary political will. While sustained economic growth was a condition for long-term social progress and development, it needed to be complemented by inclusive employment and social policies. A basic social protection floor providing universal access to social services could further help to break the long-term poverty cycle, encouraging individuals to acquire the skills to participate in the economy. Human development policies could be particularly important in that regard; aligned with national development strategies and needs, they could help to generate productive employment and decent work, with special attention to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Jobless growth was not the answer: policy packages tailored to national situations needed to be adopted in order to promote recovery from the ongoing crisis. The Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization (ILO) offered an appropriate framework for such action and should be further integrated into the work of the United Nations system.

32. Efforts also needed to be stepped up to mainstream gender perspectives in development cooperation work, based on national ownership and leadership. The internationally agreed goals could not be achieved without significant advances in gender equality and the empowerment of women; UN-Women was uniquely placed to lead and coordinate efforts to ensure that commitments assumed in that regard were duly implemented at the country level.

33. **Mr. Al Otaibi** (Saudi Arabia) said that despite the intensive efforts of the international community, the number of LDCs had increased from 24 in 1971 to 48 in 2011; only four countries had left that category. Poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, disease and external debt were growing problems in LDCs. The economic and financial crisis had prevented developed countries from allocating 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to ODA. Protectionist trends further hindered developing countries' access to developed markets.

34. Over the previous three decades, his country had provided some $100 billion in donations and preferential loans to developing countries, in addition to cancelling some $6 billion of debts owed by LDCs. In order to confront food insecurity and rising food prices, Saudi Arabia had donated $500 million to the World Food Programme in 2008. The Saudi Fund for Development had allocated $500 million in preferential loans to projects providing energy to developing countries and LDCs. He urged advanced industrialized countries to provide direct assistance, cancel developing countries' debt and open their markets without unjustified barriers.

35. **Mr. Islam** (Bangladesh) noted that five years after the proclamation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, progress in its implementation had been dismal, and endeavours to reach millions in vulnerable countries had failed. Growth in developing countries required a flow of resources, particularly to the LDCs, and it was the responsibility of developed countries to help in that regard, particularly through ODA and trade.

36. The rescheduling and resolution of sovereign debt were necessary in order to eradicate poverty, and would help Governments fund essential development projects and create productive jobs. The developed countries must remove trade barriers and agricultural subsidies, which constituted serious impediments to the access of their markets by developing countries. In the developed countries, technology belonged to private corporations, which were not bound by Member States' measures aimed at transferring technologies to developing countries. He called for amendments to the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) to address that issue.

37. Full employment and decent work for all, the development of human resources and the economic empowerment of women were vital to poverty reduction. The public sector and the United Nations played an important role in supporting action in those areas. All development assistance given to the

developing countries must be in line with the Accra Agenda for Action and fully respect the principles of national ownership and leadership. He urged the international community to cooperate as a whole to break the vicious cycle of poverty.

38. **Mr. Wang** Qun (China) said that the many economic, political, social and historical factors underlying poverty made its elimination a cross-cutting issue and a joint responsibility of the international community. Although global cooperation for poverty reduction had registered some progress, achieving the corresponding MDG remained an enormous challenge. The international community should strengthen the coordination of macroeconomic policies to promote sustained, inclusive and equitable growth, create a favourable international environment for the eradication of poverty and ensure equal opportunities for developing countries to pursue development. In addition, the United Nations system should strengthen inter-agency coordination in implementing the action plan for the Second Decade.

39. China had worked tirelessly towards achieving the MDGs. Since 1978, it had reduced its population living in extreme poverty by over 200 million, and it was dedicated to reducing poverty further through a new 10-year programme for poverty reduction and development.

40. Despite the enormous progress that had been made in advancing gender equality globally, women as a group remained vulnerable and many challenges had yet to be overcome before equality could be achieved. Continued efforts were needed by the international community to change deep-rooted gender stereotypes, improve women's economic situation and raise their level of social participation and political status. China supported the effective coordination of resources by UN-Women and its policymaking and operational activities, while supporting the leadership role of national Governments in advancing women's empowerment. His Government had been working to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by integrating gender awareness into its legal system and public policies, and by pursuing development with the equal participation of women.

41. **Ms. Maw Maw** (Myanmar) said that although economic growth had helped developing countries advance in many areas, it had also increased inequality. Progress in achieving the MDGs required sustained, inclusive, equitable and job-intensive growth. At the same time, economic growth must be supported by policies promoting structural change, typically including agricultural productivity improvements, industrialization, access to global trade and large-scale investments in rural infrastructure and services. In Myanmar, about 70 per cent of the population worked in the agricultural sector, and effective poverty alleviation therefore was contingent upon developing rural areas. While Myanmar's poverty rate had dropped from 32 to 26 per cent, much needed to be done to meet the MDG of reducing its poverty rate to 16 per cent by 2015. Her Government's plan for rural development and poverty alleviation focused on the development of agricultural activities, rural productivity, microfinance institutions, rural cooperative societies, rural energy and environmental conservation. It had also granted tax exemptions on the export of all agricultural produce and timber products, provided paddy seedlings to farmers and backed microfinance programmes.

42. Poverty eradication must be the cardinal development objective of the United Nations. The best way to achieve progress during the Second Decade was to carry out realistic and constructive analyses of the results achieved to date. Myanmar would redouble its efforts to alleviate poverty both at the national and international levels, in cooperation with the international community.

43. **Ms. Ochir** (Mongolia) said that her country was seriously concerned by the overall uneven progress in achieving the MDGs and especially by the sluggish decline in poverty worldwide. At the current rate, as attested by a 2011 report of the Director-General of ILO, it would take another 88 years to eradicate extreme poverty. Poverty eradication was an indispensable requirement for global social justice, equality and sustainable development. Social inclusion, equitable access to basic social services, the promotion of gender equality and the legal empowerment of the poor could also help communities to withstand crises.

44. Mongolia had, by and large, managed to overcome the effects of multiple crises and was well on its way to rapid economic growth. Her Government was aware, however, that growth had to be inclusive and equitable in order for poverty to be reduced significantly. It had developed poverty maps, improved employment promotion policies by enhancing the reliability of the labour statistics system and streamlined key labour concepts in line with its ILO

obligations. It had also established vocational training centres, improved agricultural productivity and food security, and upgraded the birth registration and identity document management system.

45. Mongolia had recently established a human development fund which directly channelled revenues from the mining sector into health services, education, housing and other social benefits available to all of its citizens. In three days' time her nation's capital would be hosting the International Conference on "Avoiding the Resource Curse: Managing Extractive Industries for Human Development", which would discuss the best practices for using natural resource wealth to fund human development.

46. **Ms. Prorok** (Ukraine) said that poverty alleviation required the timely provision of international development assistance, including during humanitarian crises, adding that Ukraine had committed to providing humanitarian assistance to countries of the Horn of Africa through the United Nations system. The implementation in Ukraine of a programme of economic reforms for 2010-2014 had raised pensions and real wages, while the national poverty index had fallen to its lowest level since 2001.

47. The involvement of United Nations bodies in boosting gender equality was welcome, but the progress made in empowering women over the last two decades had nonetheless been fragile and insufficient. Women needed to be included in State development strategies and programmes, particularly policymaking activities, and in the formulation and implementation of development policy.

48. Regarding maternal deaths and HIV/AIDS, she stressed the importance of the adoption in June 2011 of a new Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, which recognized that women and girls remained the most affected by the epidemic, and that strengthened protection was required. She called on UN-Women to pay particular attention to reducing women's vulnerability to HIV, and emphasized her country's significant success in preventing mother-to-child transmission of the AIDS-causing virus.

49. **Mr. Govrin** (Israel) said that the eradication of poverty remained at the top of Israel's international agenda. A comprehensive approach must be adopted to that end, by way of a sustainable development programme that would address the interlinked challenges of food security, health care, community building and education. Effective and sustainable agricultural practices must also be promoted in that context, as being crucial for food security and enhancing the livelihoods of the rural poor, while helping at the same time to address the effects of climate change.

50. Israel considered the empowerment of women and youth to be another crucial part of any strategy to tackle poverty. All too often, the cycle of poverty was perpetuated because of lack of education and skills. Capacity-building for women and youth was therefore a central concern of the international development agency of his country, which had established, in addition, one of the world's first development training centres devoted specifically to the empowerment of women. Israel remained committed to sharing its expertise and experience in that and other relevant areas with partner organizations and other countries.

51. **Mr. Onemola** (Nigeria) expressed concern that, four years into the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, little progress had been made in improving the lot of millions of impoverished people in most of the developing countries, particularly the LDCs and all of sub-Saharan Africa. His delegation welcomed the Economic and Social Council resolution (2011/37) on the Global Jobs Pact, which reflected a necessary shift towards more pragmatic policies and closer system-wide collaboration. Within the framework of the Pact, developed country partners should give greater assistance to developed countries in setting up basic social security mechanisms and support the United Nations social security floor initiative. Social security was one of the critical concerns of the Nigerian Ministry of Education and Productivity, along with job creation, productivity, skills development and the promotion of industrial relations. In 2009, it had adopted a national plan of action on employment creation which had been incorporated into the national development plan.

52. There was growing awareness in Africa that the advancement of women was bound to strengthen society as a whole, by virtue of women's basic contributions in households and to food production and national economic life. Gender perspectives should accordingly be incorporated into macroeconomic policies, taking into account intra-household differences in the use and control of resources. In that context, his delegation attached importance to the role of UN-Women. Nigeria, for its part, had taken

measures to enable women to benefit from technological advances in food processing while at the same time investing heavily in skills development programmes to improve work performance and productivity. The country's efforts to achieve the MDGs had demonstrated that it was essential not only to extend basic welfare services for the poorest; it was also important to strengthen productive capacities, address inequalities and create job opportunities across the entire spectrum of the job market while ensuring greater coherence between social and economic policies in the interests of sustainable growth and social inclusion. He called, in conclusion, for increased international support for efforts to eradicate poverty and unemployment in Africa.

53. **Ms. Thakur** (India) said that poverty eradication remained at the very top of the global development agenda, particularly as millions of people had recently slipped back into poverty, thereby reversing years of development gains. Sustained economic growth was the main instrument of poverty alleviation in developing countries, as was strikingly demonstrated by India's own example. Nevertheless, and notwithstanding projected growth of 7.5 per cent in the current year, lifting huge numbers out of poverty, her country was still home to the majority of the world's poor. Growth in itself was not sufficient; it had to be inclusive, and India had tailored its policies accordingly. Moreover, recognizing the multidimensional nature of poverty, her Government had responded by launching large-scale socio-economic programmes that incorporated a pro-job strategy and were aimed at combining equity with growth. India had also taken care to keep women at the centre of its development efforts and had been particularly successful in promoting their participation in local government.

54. Emphasizing the importance of agricultural development, financial inclusion and skills development for poverty reduction in developing countries, she called attention to those countries' need for enhanced resources and policy space to pursue their development, which was constricted by the global economic slowdown. All, particularly the most vulnerable among them, urgently required an enabling international environment in order to meet their foremost challenge — poverty eradication. With that in view, it was imperative to move forward in the Doha Development Round, climate change negotiations and the comprehensive reform of the Bretton Woods institutions.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.